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WILLIAM IM IS SBA'S FINANCIAL SERVICES CHAMPION OF THE YEAR 2006



SANTA ANA, CA – William B. Im, President and CEO of Uniti Bank in Buena Park, CA and a resident of Fullerton, CA, has been named *Financial Services Champion of the Year 2006* by the Santa Ana District Office of the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). His selection was announced by District Director J. Adalberto Quijada. "William Im has taken a strong leadership position in the Orange County business community. Through his efforts Uniti Bank has provided greater access to capital to those businesses with the greatest need," said Mr. Quijada.

James K. Jeong, Senior Vice President Uniti Bank, nominated Im for his positive impact on the economic growth of the small business community during his 38 years as a banker.

After graduating from Seoul National University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering, Im started his banking career with Korea Exchange Bank in 1967 in Seoul, Korea. He was transferred to the Bank's Los Angeles Agency in 1972 and subsequently obtained his MBA from the University of Southern California. He joined Wilshire State Bank in 1985 as manager of the Trade Finance Group and became President and CEO in 1993.

In 1999 Im resigned from Wilshire State Bank and started the process of developing a new community bank in Orange County. In December 2001 Uniti Bank was founded with its headquarters in Buena Park. "Maintaining quality while pursuing growth" has always been Mr. Im's philosophy in leading the Bank. In fact, bank analysts recognize Uniti Bank as a "premier performing bank." The Bank has grown to three branches in Southern California and one loan production office in Washington, D.C.

Im has been married to Jeung "Mary" Im for 34 years and has 3 grown children. He has served as the Director of the Buena Park Chamber of Commerce where he developed a program to assist Asian-owned businesses that had newly immigrated. He has been a business counselor for the Orange County Chapter of SCORE "Counselors to America's Small Business" and has been involved in the Roman Catholic Lay Association. He plays golf, swims and sings in a choir in his spare time.

Mr. Im will be honored locally at the SBA's Small Business Award Luncheon on Tuesday, April 18, 2006 at The Grove of Anaheim, CA as part of a nationwide salute to small business. For further information on the luncheon contact the Orange County Small Business Development Center at (714) 564-5202.